

**In the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

~~The invention relates to a circuit breaker comprising current detection means (8), a microprocessor-controlled trigger (20), and a bypass switch (40) which cooperates with a watchdog switch (26) monitoring the functionality of the microprocessor (24). In order to ensure the protective function of the circuit breaker even during short circuits, the bypass switch (40) reacts immediately after very high threshold current values are switched on while reacting to moderately high threshold current values after the switch-on phase, wherefor a switchable reference voltage ( $U_r$ ) is made available to the bypass switch (40) according to the instantaneous supply voltage.~~

A circuit breaker includes current detectors, a microprocessor-controlled tripping device, and a bypass circuit that interacts with a watchdog circuit that monitors the proper functioning of the microprocessor. A switchable reference voltage is made available to the bypass circuit as a function of the momentary supply voltage. During short circuits, the bypass circuit, immediately upon being switched on, responds to very high limit current values, whereas after the switch-on phase, it already responds at moderately high limit current values.